

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/014167

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01L21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01L H01F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 834 825 A (IMAI KIYOTAKA) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) claims 1-5 column 4, line 15 - line 26 column 5, line 27 - line 38 ----- US 6 396 122 B1 (LIU Q Z ET AL) 28 May 2002 (2002-05-28) claims 1-4,8 figures 7,13,15 column 1, line 66 column 3, line 19 - line 45 column 5, line 30 - line 65 column 6, line 15 - line 34 column 11, line 4 - line 50 ----- -/-	1-16
Y		1-16

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/02/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lauteschlaeger, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/014167

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>DATABASE WPI Week 0407 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 2004-065798 XP002276147 & JP 2003 347123 A (TAIYO YUDEN CO) 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) abstract</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 11, 26 December 1995 (1995-12-26) & JP 07 211865 A (FUJITSU LTD), 11 August 1995 (1995-08-11) abstract</p> <p>-----</p> <p>DE 195 33 050 A (VACUUMSCHMELZE GMBH) 13 March 1997 (1997-03-13) claims 1,16,17,20 figure 3</p> <p>-----</p>	1-16
Y		1-16
A		1,14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/014167

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5834825	A	10-11-1998	JP JP KR	2765547 B2 9186291 A 231321 B1		18-06-1998 15-07-1997 15-11-1999
US 6396122	B1	28-05-2002	NONE			
JP 2003347123	A	05-12-2003	NONE			
JP 07211865	A	11-08-1995	NONE			
DE 19533050	A	13-03-1997	DE	19533050 A1		13-03-1997